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NOEL MEMORIAL LIBRARY
SEP 09 2004
LSU SHREVEPORT

The Almagest

Volume 46, Issue 1

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WEEKLY WEATHER

Today:

Hi: 90

Lo: 67

Friday:

Partly Cloudy

Hi: 90

Lo: 68

Saturday:

Isolated storms

Hi: 90

Lo: 69

Sunday:

Scatt'd storms

Hi: 87

Lo: 64

Monday:

Isolated storms

Hi: 87

Lo: 60

Tuesday:

Partly cloudy

Hi: 89

Lo: 64

Wednesday:

Partly cloudy

Hi: 88

Lo: 65

Student Activities kicks off year with 'Kaos'

BY CHRIS GRAY

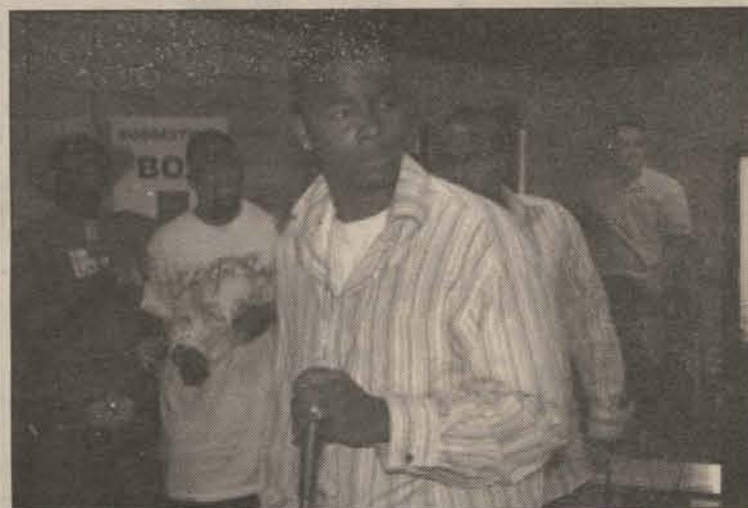
The Student Activities Board's annual Kickoff Kaos at LSUS continues today during Common Hour in the University Center mall. On Tuesday, the first day of the festival, students dined on free food and drinks and virgin daiquiris and nachos. Today's festivities include inflatable boxing, twister and jousting.

Kickoff Kaos was created to get students back in the routine of classes and give them a break from the stress related with the beginning of a new se-

mester. It gives students a chance to unwind between classes, catch up with old friends, and meet new ones. The event also gives student organizations a chance to show what they have to offer to new freshmen.

"It was really awesome last year," said Dakota Hamilton, a sophomore pre-med student. Hamilton said she plans to attend the event again this year. "If Kickoff Kaos had more live entertainment it might draw in more of the new students to

SEE KAOS PAGE 6



ANDRE' MENARD

Charlie Wilson, a freshman business major, sings karaoke Tuesday at Kickoff Kaos. The event continues today in the UC.

Summer programs take learning outside



CANDICE LEONE

Students on the Washington Semester took a tour of D.C. their first day in the city. Dr. William Pederson escorts a group of students each summer.

BY JAMIE GILMORE

This summer LSUS students got the opportunity to travel to Germany and Washington, D.C. in order to earn credit toward their degrees. Nine students from LSUS attended the German Business Seminar, and 15 attended the Washington Semester. The trips taught students about international business, culture and

American politics.

Dr. Wolfgang Hinck, assistant professor of marketing, escorted students from LSUS, University of Texas, and North Carolina to the European Business Seminar on location in Germany. This three-week semester allowed students to earn three credit hours. Students attended seminars-ranging from a German language crash

SEE PROGRAMS PAGE 6

Library implements new printing system

BY BEVERLY GURLEY

Next time you go to the library, bring your wallet. The Noel Memorial Library has implemented a new pay-for-print system.

According to Alan D. Gabehart, Dean of Noel Memorial Library, the "Go Print" system was installed to reduce waste. The five-cents-per-page fee will not generate a profit for the library; it only covers the cost of supplies. During the past five years, the cost for paper and toner has totaled \$87,000-which has been paid directly out of the library's operating budget.

"It's a good system, but people need to know why they are charging us now," said Katara Getter, a senior criminal justice major. "The main question is, why doesn't the student technology fee cover the expenses in the library?"

Getter is not alone. Many students said they don't

mind paying the fee, but thought that their student technology fee should, and already did cover the expenses in the library.

"I don't really mind (the fee)," said Maranda Pearson, a freshman pre-med student, "but it should be free."

Carla Clark, head of Access Services and Systems for Noel Memorial Library, said that 2.5 million pages have been printed in the library in the last five years. Clark believes that by charging the same fee for printed pages as well as photocopies, it will encourage students to use already printed materials. Print journals, reference materials and microfilms as well as electronic documents will now all cost the same per copy. The computers now allow students to save information to a floppy disk or e-mail a copy to themselves to print later. Despite the new library format, computer labs on

SEE LIBRARY PAGE 6

FROM THE EDITOR

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Corrections

No corrections this week.

Editorial Policy

The information presented in this publication by no means reflects the opinions of the administration or staff of LSUS. *The Almagest* seeks to provide information for the LSUS campus and community; to involve students, faculty and staff; and to provide a public forum for ideas as guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution. Letters to the Editor are encouraged. However, the staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, and content. Any letter submitted by a club or organization must be signed by all members of the group or by the group's president. *The Almagest* reserves the right not to publish submitted materials.

The Almagest is published on Thursday mornings and is printed by the Natchitoches Times. Comments and complaints are welcome and should be addressed to Candice Leone, Editor-in-Chief. They must be accompanied by your full name and email address.

As a student entering the last semester of my college career, a huge, confusing heap of very different topics weighs on my mind. Like most twenty-somethings about to leave the security of school and head into the "real world," lots of things scare me. Of course I worry about all of the most obvious problems I'm about to encounter—where am I going to live, how am I going to support myself, how am I going to support my "karaoke night" habit—but I am also very rightfully worried about the impact that college-age voters may or may not have on this November's presidential election.

A recent poll conducted by the Harvard Institute of Politics suggests that young adults, ages 18-24, represent 9.5 million potential votes that could be cast in November. Yet only 36 percent of that age group's registered voters showed up at the polls in the 2000 presidential election. Whether that low turnout was because of ignorance or indifference, young adults have got to make their voices heard. Thankfully, that same poll shows that 59 percent of the 1,201 college students polled said they will "definitely vote" in November; another 27 percent said they will "probably" head to the polls, too. I have very strong political opinions and faith in my pick for November, but I don't care about forcing my belief in my candidate on others. I care about forcing my belief in voting on others.

In a time when society seems to be in a constant contest of patriotism, I wonder how there is anyone left on this earth who does not realize that voting is the most patriotic thing you can do as an American. It's a duty. It's a responsibility. It's a privilege that thousands fought to get. I know people my age who said they haven't voted before because they forgot to register or don't care who wins because they "don't like politics." People struggled for the right to vote because every aspect of law inevitably affects all Americans in some way—whether you realize it or not.

With the start of the fall season, the two main candidates are heading into the most important leg of this year's race. This summer's Democratic National Convention in Boston and the GOP convention that began this week in New York City probably helped undecided voters' decision swing one way or the other, and solidified others who were already certain of their choice. College political organizations are also in full swing, with meetings, flyers and appearances around campuses. Even celebrities are getting in on recruitment. At the MTV Video Music Awards a few nights ago, members of Outkast handed out "Vote or DIE!" t-shirts as they walked to the stage to accept the "Video of the Year" award.

Every vote counts, which was made pointedly clear in the 2000 Gore/Bush election. As cheesy as it sounds, everyone can make a difference. Casting a vote gives power, strength and a voice to those who might not otherwise be heard. But please, let the decision you make be your own. Voting for someone because you were told to—which sadly, I hear about often—is possibly worse than not voting at all. Research the issues important to you, decide which candidate most fits your beliefs and show up to the polls in November. As the school semester gets underway and students struggle to stay ahead in their classes, I urge everyone to remember to do the most important homework of their lives.

Girls & SPORTS



The Almagest letters policy

The Almagest requests your reactions through letters to the editor. Letters should be typed and double spaced. Please include your classification and major. Letters should be submitted to *the Almagest* office, BH 344, by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed.

The Almagest reserves the right to edit all letters.

Randy Butterbaugh begins new dean of students job



NIKKI MORA

Dr. Randy R. Butterbaugh was recently hired as the first dean of students.

BY SHANDRIKA JACKSON

After nearly a year of searching, the newly created position of dean of students has been filled by Dr. Randy R. Butterbaugh. Butterbaugh began this semester as the first dean of students at LSUS.

The dean of students was created to enable the administration to better serve the needs of the students, staff and faculty. Butterbaugh's duties will include student activities, judicial board, ombudsman, and an array of student life concerns. Previously, the duties of dean of students position and others fell upon Dr. Gloria Raines, vice chancellor of student affairs.

Over 120 people applied for the position of dean of students at LSUS; only six were invited to the campus for interviews.

"After about a year searching, I feel we have found the very best person for the new dean of students," said Raines. "Experience plus an excellent personality are the key components that make Dr. Butterbaugh a rare find."

Butterbaugh came to Shreveport from Augusta, Ga., where he served as director of student affairs at the Medical College of Georgia after 28 years in higher education. Butterbaugh earned a bach-

elor of sciences degree in business administration and economics from Manchester College, a master of arts degree in marketing from Ball State and a doctorate of education from Mississippi State.

Butterbaugh plans to spend time evaluating and learning about the strengths and weaknesses of the university before implementing any changes. He said his main goals right now are to

build a sense of community among students, faculty and staff and to enhance participation in student organizations, recreational sports and other on-campus activities.

Butterbaugh also said he would like to

use the judicial process at LSUS as an educational tool for living and learning.

Raines said she is excited to have Butterbaugh fill the position because it gives her more time to focus on being an outstanding vice chancellor.

"Prior to adding this new position, hopefully I was a fair dean of students and a fair vice chancellor, but now I can be an excellent vice chancellor," said Raines.

"It is great to have another front line administrator to help students accomplish their goals here at LSUS," said Brian Hirsch, the LSUS Career Center director.

"After about a year of searching, I feel we have found the very best person for the new dean of students."

-Gloria Raines

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs

Incoming freshmen pick LSUS over competition

BY SABRINA NAUDIN

Each year, area colleges battle to win over the large group of new high school graduates with various recruitment techniques.

Choosing which college or university to attend can be one of the most difficult and important decisions a high school senior can make.

A large number of freshmen compose the incoming crowd of new students for this fall semester.

LSUS went through a lot of changes this summer. Administration counselors, as well as student ambassadors worked as a team, sending brochures and pamphlets by mail, visiting local high schools and area community colleges and attending college night fairs to inform prospective students about the LSUS community.

Kimberly Ann Henix, a freshman nursing major from Bossier City, said that her main motivation for coming to LSUS was that her family is close, but she is really happy with her decision.

Henix said she feels comfortable

because the teachers, as well as the campus, are nice.

Gary Bess, a freshman business administration major, said that although the academics at LSUS impressed him, his sister, LSUS student Kristi Bess, was the main reason he decided to come to this school.

He said the general atmosphere of the campus is pleasant and the teachers and professors are very helpful.

Jennifer Carter, acting director of admissions and records, said the hard work of her staff may have encouraged some students to come here instead of going away to another area school.

She said the relatively new tele-counseling program, where current students contact prospective new students and answer questions they may have about LSUS, has been the most successful recruitment tool. The program, she said, helped increase the number of campus tours.

"Making a personal contact over the phone was very helpful," said Carter.

Admissions office staff grows

BY JILL CHILDERS

Many new faces greet students in Admissions and Records this fall.

Tiffany Johnson, a recent graduate of LSUS, has stepped up from student to the position of admissions counselor. As a student, Johnson served as a resident assistant along with many other activities.

"I want to open up the eyes of high school juniors and seniors ... that LSUS is a wonderful place to attend," said Johnson. She said the easiest part of her transition was assisting students who call or come to the university, answering their questions and helping in the office.

"I am used to helping students on campus to ensure their college career is running smoothly," she said. She said the hardest part of her transition is "looking from the outside. I never knew recruitment and retention was as difficult and time consuming. Making relationships with high school counselors, students and parents—you have to follow-up with these to make sure LSUS stays their No. 1 choice—which makes it worthwhile."

Andrew Wells is a new face at LSUS as another admissions counselor.

Wells was born and raised in California. He graduated from Cogswell College in 2002 with a bachelor of arts degree in computer art, specializing in character animation.

SEE NEW STAFF PAGE 4

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New faces fill faculty positions

BY CHAUNTÉ ROBINSON

This semester, LSUS has added several new faculty members and adjunct professors in the various departments of the university.

After a two-year nationwide search to find a foreign language instructor, James Kilpatrick was selected by the Fine Arts Committee to come to LSUS. Kilpatrick is a graduate of Rice University in Houston and is fluent in both Spanish and French. Originally, Kilpatrick is from a small town near Hammond.

Kilpatrick said he came to LSUS because he wanted to come back to Louisiana. Besides Texas, he has also taught in Alaska and overseas.

"Et voila ...Aqui'estoy," said Kilpatrick.

Kilpatrick said the students at this campus are hardworking and one of his goals is to take students abroad.

Dr. John S. Vassar, the department chair of Fine Arts and Foreign Language, said that he, as well as others in the department is excited to have Kilpatrick. He said that Kilpatrick is very energetic, has a great deal of interaction and is very popular with the students so far. His positive interaction with the students is one of the primary reasons Kilpatrick was selected for the position, said Vassar.

"Our primary focus is teaching," said Vassar. "Stu-

dent response is important to make sure faculty can connect with the students."

Evan Brier is another new addition to campus. Brier was hired in the English department. He received his Master's degree from the University of New York, but said he was drawn to Louisiana because he wanted to see another part of the country.

When he first arrived in Shreveport, Brier said he noticed that the people here were much friendlier and was impressed. Brier plans to make Shreveport his home and will complete his doctorate in December.

John Tabor is returning to LSUS after retiring in 2001. Tabor said the class he is teaching, beginning newswriting, is one of his favorites to teach. Tabor has been teaching for over 37 years- 33 of those years were at LSUS.

Patrick Dennis, the chief meteorologist at KSLA Channel 12, is instructing MCOM 376, broadcast announcing, this semester. Dennis has been teaching speech classes at Louisiana Tech-Barksdale for the past four years.

Dennis said he is excited to work on building the new broadcasting lab.

Urska Cvek, is a new addition to the computer science department. She received her graduate degree from the University of Massachusetts. Cvek

instructs bioinformatics, data analysis, data mining and visualization. She said she decided to come to LSUS because she was interested in research in conjunction with LSU-Health and Sciences Center. This semester, Cvek said she will write grants for equipment that will be used for Bioinformatics research.

Dr. Tony Grice is new to the physical education department, and teaches badminton, personal health and individual sports methods.

Later this month, Grice will play badminton in the U.S. Badminton Open in Los Angeles. Prior to coming to LSUS, Grice taught at Louisiana Tech, Texas A&M, University of Texas, and Hardin-Simmons. Grice said while at LSUS, he hopes to recruit new students to the physical education department and continue to work on his fitness.

The education department has added Dr. Sherry Bair to its list of faculty members. Bair comes to the campus from Clinton, S.C., where she taught at Presbyterian College.

Bair said she chose to come to LSUS for an opportunity to work at a larger school. "And so far there are no regrets," said Bair.

She said that she loves the school and the city of Shreveport. Bair has a love of writing children's books and wants to be the next Dr. Seuss.

NEW STAFF

continued from page 3

Wells said he discovered the position at LSUS through an online search. Since he has relatives who live in Vivian, he was familiar with LSUS from summer visits.

"Everything just fell in place," said Wells. "It was just meant to be."

Wells said the easiest part of his transition to Shreveport has been the social aspect.

"Believe it or not, I have more family and friends here than in California, and I have already done the job, so it wasn't like learning a new job." The hardest part of the move, he said, is "the money, financial aspect, and the cost of living."

David Barham is another staff member who was relocated to Shreveport to fill the posi-

tion of assistant registrar. Barham, who graduated from Oakridge High School in Louisiana, has returned to the state after being away for more than 22 years.

Barham spent 22 years in the Air Force, taking advantage of schooling during his military career. His last job was superintendent of education and training at Eric University in Montgomery, Ala. He earned a bachelor's degree in science and management while in the Air Force at the University of Maryland. He obtained one master's degree in adult education at Troy State in Montgomery, Ala., and a second at Alabama State.

Barham is married with four sons, one daughter and

four grandchildren. He said he accepted the job because he wanted to come back to Louisiana.

"I have been the coordinator for distant learning undergrad degrees at Troy State and wanted to come home and the position happened to pop open, so I applied, and here I am," said Barham.

Barham said the easiest part of relocating is how easily he fits in. "LSUS is like a big family," he said. "When you come in the door, you're not really like a stranger; you fit in like everybody else."

Other new staff additions in Admissions include: Katie Shaver, admissions counselor, and Kathy Lynch, data management coordinator.

Sports Roundup

BY LORI RUSSELL

The LSUS Pilots basketball team is gearing up for another season with the recruitment of three new players: Brent McDaniel, a junior from Louisiana College; David Walker, a senior from University of Louisiana in Monroe; and Derrick Hill, a senior from Midwestern State University. Though the Pilots lost Travis Cash because of ineligibility, he could be returning in the spring.

"We expect to be over last year's success and hopefully get to go to the NAIA National Tournament," said Head Coach Chad McDowell. Last year, the men finished 21-12 overall and 12-6 in the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference.

The Lady Pilot's Head Coach Ronnie Howell has recruited seven new players for this season. Last year they were 8-12, with 11 freshman players. They defeated the No. 15 Dillard University and went on to gain another win in a preseason game against 24th-ranked University of Mobile.

Howell is excited about the

upcoming year. "We hope to build on last year's winnings," said Howell. "The new players will help give us the depth that was missing last season. We will also be able to play more teams this season."

The new players include Kacie Cryer, a freshman from Teurlings Catholic High School; Trish Phillips, a junior from Angelina Junior College; Shanie Cardinal, a freshman from Cypress Falls High School; Priscilla Pena, a freshman from Lamar Consolidated High School; Amanda Castle, a freshman from Ellander High School; Amanda LaCaze, a sophomore from East Central Community College; and Chrissi Chiri, a junior from Southeastern Louisiana University.

Howell said that the "new players will mix in really well with the old ones."

The baseball team is ready to hit the field again this year. Last year, the Pilots made it to the Conference Tournament Championship game only to be defeated by Bellhaven College

SEE **SPORTS** PAGE 5

GOT WEED?

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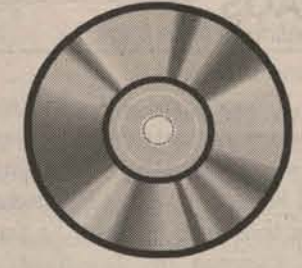
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UNIVERSAL MUSIC



Music Review

BY ERIC PULISFER

Taking Back Sunday "Where you want to be"

At a certain point in time, I imagine musicians have a very special midlife crisis. One in which they realize their fan base can no longer continue to grow because their target audience is (gasp) getting old.

They're doing mature things, like climbing the corporate ladder and saving for the kids' education, not looking for that perfect makeout song.

Take Bon Jovi for instance, I'm sure plenty of people made out to Bon Jovi. At some point in time, it must have occurred to the band's members that they need not concern themselves with hairspray or constructing songs about their riding of steel horses and being wanted dead or alive.

I suspect that is a very depressing time in the aging musician's life, since rock is about youth, and when one is no longer filled with youthful energy, how can one truly rock? What does one do when finding themselves no longer Sting

from the Police but creepy, kamasutra solo artist Sting?

I say this to make the following point: there was a day when many people thought Bon Jovi was just about the greatest thing since sliced bread, and I believe it's quite possible that Long Island band Taking Back Sunday, and their emo brethren, just may be this year's Bon Jovi. Bon Jovi was not groundbreaking, but they sold records, just like TBS.

Look at the lyrics: take "Cute Without the E," one of the standout tracks from TBS's first album: "and will you tell all your friends, you've got your gun to my head" and compare it to Bon Jovi's "shot through the heart, and you're to blame" from "You Give Love a Bad Name," and you can see at least some similarity in what the lyrics deal with.

There are also similarities in the music and lifestyle associated with it. You see, Bon Jovi, and others like them, were all about fashion, music and a self-imposed way of behaving, kind of like a precursor of TBS and emo.

Emo is tight t-shirts, two lead singers, crying at concerts and deciding to only drink coffee black in memory of a failed relationship from a year ago. The music is about something more than just listening. Emo is

not, however, particularly intelligent or original. It fits into a very specific, and sometimes complicated, mold.

First, the band must not consider themselves to be emo, since accepting that label would imply that they are fitting into the mold that they ironically fit into by saying they don't fit in.

Second, the band must compare a hyperbolic heartbreak to being shot in the head, having one's heart cut out with rusty scrap metal or a number of other unpleasant things, but keep the details vague enough so that the song can apply to anyone who desires to sing along.

When it comes to being emo, Taking Back Sunday doesn't break the mold, but they fill it up nicely. You have two singers— one who focuses more on screaming, and the other who concentrates on being the sensitive, whiny one— multiple breakdowns in every song and repeated phrases that become impounded into the head of the listener.

But here's the special thing about TBS's sophomore album: it's actually pretty good. It's not groundbreaking but it's a tighter, more cohesive album than their first. The singing is executed nicely, much better than most emo bands, with a happy medium between punk-pop and hardcore, the breakdowns flow nicely in and out, making the album

fly by, and the repeated phrases manage to pound themselves into the listeners head.

After the departure of two members— including guitarist, singer and co-songwriter John Nolan— the band's lyrics seem to have lost some of the edge from their first album.

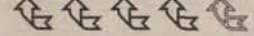
Lead-singer Adam Lazzara does a satisfactory job though, with a few standout lines like "it's never been enough to just leave or give up but, it's never good enough to feel right," showcasing a less angry approach, taking a few sensitive style hints from Dashboard Confessional.

Overall, TBS's sound seems to have been streamlined to appeal to more people, and its paying off. In under a month, the album is already the best-selling release ever from their record label, Victory Records— surpassing the previous record held by TBS's debut on the label, with almost a quarter of a million copies sold and a place on the Top 40 charts.

Despite the repetitive lyrics and how quickly the album was made after the replacement of two members, "Where You Want to Be" sounds pretty incredible. TBS is young and full of energy, and although Lazzara isn't our generation's Dylan or Lenon, he may be perfectly content as our Bon Jovi.

Besides, having SUVs and minivans line up down the New Jersey freeway for the Taking Back Sunday Reunion

Tour may be where the band wants to be in the next twenty years.



SPORTS

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1-5. Two years ago, they finished third in the nation at the College World Series.

"That is the goal for this season and all the seasons to come," said Head Coach Rocke Musgraves.

Though Musgraves lost several seniors last year, he has three returning impact players: Dustin Bissinette, who averaged .333 and stole 13 bases; Chris Frye, who had a .308 average and 34 RBIs; and Kevin Jewel with an 8-2 pitching average last year. Coach Musgraves also added four outfielders to this year's team.

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KAOS

continued from page 1

campus activities."

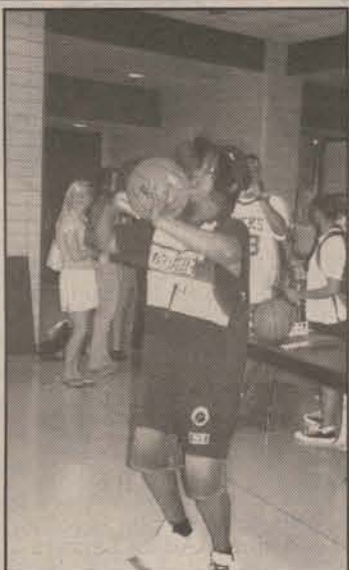
Chase Cox, a senior secondary education major said he usually doesn't attend Kick-off Kaos and won't be attending this year because he isn't on campus on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

"It's good for new students to attend Kickoff Kaos to get a feel for campus life at LSUS," said Cox.

"Kickoff Kaos would draw more students if it had more attractions, like live bands and things," he said.

The SAB estimates that about 500 people came to Kick-off Kaos each day last fall.

Workers from SAB said it is hard for them to get solid numbers on attendance, but they hope to see a rise in attendance this semester.



ANDRE MENARD

Veronica Brown, a freshman math major, tries her luck in the free throw contest at Kickoff Kaos. The contest continues today. The winner gets a free meal from The Port and a T-shirt.

PROGRAMS

continued from page 1

course to International Factory Integration— taught by 20 professors from five different countries.

Students also went on road trips to learn about the culture and businesses of Germany. The road trips included visits to German companies such as Volkswagen, which is located in Wolfsburg, and a former concentration camp. Students were also given tours of Hamburg, Berlin and Potsdam for their political, historical and social interests. The trip allows students to cross-culturally interact with German host students from the University in Lunenburg and also get exposed to foreign cultures.

"Students learn more about international cultures in the three weeks they are in Germany than they could learn in one year in the classroom," said Hinck, who said he finds cross-culture interaction very important. Hinck also escorts students to Mexico and invites German students to visit the LSUS campus.

Since the professors volunteer to teach the seminars, the cost of the Germany trip is considerably less than those offered by other universities. For information on the Germany trip, call Hinck at 797-5268.

A little closer to home, but just as cultural, is the Washington, D.C., semester. Students who attended that program received six credit hours by enrolling in the group learning experience.

"During the Washington Semester students learn about American heritage and the rest of the world at the same time," said Dr. Bill Pederson, professor of political science and resident director of the program. "It expands everyone's horizons, because Washington, D.C. is a very international city, and has a very cosmopolitan atmosphere."

While in D.C., students visited historic landmarks including the White House, but also got a chance to visit other places which most tourists do



CANDICE LEONE

Washington Semester participants pose for a snapshot in front of the Smithsonian Castle. Over the course of the three-week trip, students tried to visit each of the Smithsonianians.

not know about. "The sights were great, and we learned a lot," said Amanda Reese, senior history

year reservation. "It was exciting to be in the nations' Capitol and in the middle of national politics," said Michael Marino, a junior political science major.

The 15 students were required to do more than just sight see— daily readings and a final exam were required as part of the grade.

The Washington semester is the least expensive program of its

kind in the nation and is open to all students. For more information on the 2005 Washington Semester, contact Pederson at 797-5138.

"Students learn more about international cultures in the three weeks they are in Germany than they could learn in one year in the classroom."

-Wolfgang Hinck

German Business Seminar escort

major.

Students also got the opportunity to sit in on two Supreme Court decisions, which usually requires a one-

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Jason's Flick Picks

BY JASON LIMERICK

**** Warning....This movie review is intended for mature audiences. It is lacking in moral fiber and may cause dirty thoughts. ****

Alien vs. Predator

This is what I consider to be the worst flick of the summer—the major disappointment that someone had the audacity to slap the "Alien" and "Predator" names on.

The "Alien" movies are in the top tier of the sci-fi and horror genre. The "Predator" movies, although they weren't as good, were great popcorn flicks that had enough "holy-crap-cool" moments to make them good for multiple viewings and a bit of a cult following. These aren't necessarily great cinematic bounds, but they are great, fun movies and they are loved by a lot of people, so when you think of these two big screen titans throwing down you can't help but get a little excited at what you're going to get. I guess that's why this is so disappointing.

There were about five minutes in this movie that were really great. There's a fight between an

Alien and Predator that hints at what everyone was hoping for. Then there's about an hour and a half of asinine explanations and horribly lame dialogue, all pushed along by a slimy score and less thrills than "Clifford's Really Big Movie." This movie was painful to watch. The human cast was made up of a "team" of ridiculously boring, clichéd characters who spend the first 40 minutes of the movie whining before they ever even see an Alien, and drive you so crazy you can't wait to see every one of them die.

The heroin of the movie, which is obviously an attempt at an updated version of the tough "Ripley" character from "Alien," is god-awfully dull. There's a twist in the film and I don't want to give it away, but she ends up surviving an attack by befriending a creature. I think it was supposed to be a powerful moment, but believe me when I tell you I wasn't the only one in the theater laughing. In fact there are a lot of points in this film where you were supposed to be scared or impressed that I swore had to be comedy. It's really ridiculous.

The entire back story really taints the "Predator" mythos. They

come off as slow, lumbering musclemen with huge armor and giant blades who can't even fight off a single Alien. The "climactic" final battle will give you flashbacks of "Jurassic Park"—except minus the suspense. You'll see what I mean when you watch it. This was one of the worst I've seen in a while.

Overall, the movie was slow and boring and ridiculous, and I want my hour and a half back.



Hero

When I saw the preview for Jet Li's "Hero," I couldn't help but think "Crouching Tiger." Ya know, I mean the walking on air sword fights and the stoic hero and romantic subtext—but man, was I wrong. This movie is big. It's a genre-defining event. This film is unlike any action or martial arts film I've seen.

Let me start by saying the film is directed by Zhang Yimou, not Quentin Tarantino. This movie was never going to be released in the United States. Tarantino saw the movie and was so impressed that he told Miramax they could put his name on it for a stateside release. So now he's listed as a producer and with a stamp of approval from

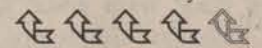
Quentin, how could you go wrong?

So on to the movie. What makes it so different from every other martial arts film? Well, there are a lot of reasons but we'll start with the fighting itself. There's none of the needless, acrobatic exploits or ridiculous CG superhero type movies of "The Matrix" or other Jet Li flicks. The action isn't super fast or super violent. There is eloquence in the choreography—a subtlety that I hadn't seen before. The movements are poetic and flowing, with the emotional resonance of the characters inner turmoil. These fight scenes are beautiful, with big sweeping operatic movements. The actors are effortlessly graceful as they dance in perfect unison without losing the suspenseful stake the audience has in who lives or who dies. I was genuinely impressed, and had to pick my jaw up off the ground quite a few times.

Another favorite part of the film for me was the cinematography. Every scene is crafted like a painting. The color schemes are bold and powerful. Every image is achingly potent and overflowing with robust, awe-inspiring vividness to the point where you swear

you can smell the mountain air or feel the wind and leaves circling you in your seat. It's amazing. The water fight, the leaves, the calligraphy house, the palace— you may not know them now, but once you see the film you probably won't ever forget them.

And believe it or not, this action movie has a great story. There are twists and turns, and each time you think you've got a character figured out they surprise you. Everyone is refreshingly complex. These characters are alive. They exist in that they do not do what you'd expect, but you accept it because their personalities are so well defined that it makes sense. The movie is epic in scale. It's full of battle scenes and huge set pieces with thousands of extras. I don't know if I liked the ending. I mean, it was well done and quite profound, but the movie definitely has a message and you'll have to decide for yourself if you agree with that message or not. Overall, this is a major achievement in martial arts filmmaking. It is a gorgeous, poetic, artistically sophisticated piece of film that elevates the genre and demands to be respected. I would recommend this to any film lover.



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Calendar of Events

Thursday, September 2

SGA Meeting

10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Kickoff Kaos

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Monday, September 6

Labor Day Holiday

****NO CLASS!****

Thursday, September 9

SGA Meeting

10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Faculty Council

Meeting

10:30 a.m.

Panhellenic

Recruitment

5 p.m.

Labor Day

Organizing your time: Balancing your 'must do's' with your 'want to's'

(NAPSI)-With today's hectic lifestyle, we need to learn how to best organize our time to enjoy the things that are important to us. According to Sunny Schlenger, author of the best-selling "How to be Organized In Spite of Yourself," it is important to balance your "must do's" with your "want to's." Below are simple tips that help create more time and more enjoyment in a day.

- Track energy level patterns. There are regular cycles when we're highly productive vs. less motivated. Learn what

times of the day you typically feel most energetic and mentally sharp, as well as when fatigue tends to set in. For example, "morning people" would be advised not to leave critical tasks for late in the day.

- Streamline communications. Optimize the time spent on the telephone by employing effective technology. Don't waste time or energy looking up phone numbers from an address book when services such as Sprint's PCS Voice Command can store up to 2,500 numbers right in the telephone,

allowing you to dial by simply saying the name of the person you are trying to reach.

- Eliminate distractions and interruptions. Keep in mind that it is not the total time available to do something, but the amount of uninterrupted time. Arrange a schedule to include times when the door is closed and the telephone goes straight to voice mail. Focusing helps achieve tasks, notes Schlenger. It also allows for "me" time.

- When your schedule is off track, try the 80/20 rule.

From the items that need to be crossed off the daily "To Do" list, there are a few-about 20 percent-that are vital to complete. When Murphy's Law interferes with a well-planned schedule, it is critical to know what comprises that 20 percent. Mark those with a star. Make sure that those things get done. Even when there isn't time to tackle anything else, feel fulfilled that the most important and pressing items were completed. In a list of 10 items, finishing the two most important will give 80 percent of the value

to be gained from doing every item on the list. Identify and accomplish just those two. Feel confident.

- Try the five-minute plan. If procrastination hinders organization, make a commitment to work on a particular task for only five minutes. Once that task is initiated, it will be more feasible to complete.

- Remember to take time for yourself. Make self care a priority for both the energy and serenity needed to better care for the significant others in your life.

HOROSCOPES

BY MICHAEL SCOTT

*Editor's note: For entertainment only. Not to be taken seriously!



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today will be a 4-star day, slugger! Go out clubbing tonight with your friends.. Nothing says "I'm the leader of the tribe" like a big oak bludgeon stick!



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Wow ... a 0 star day. I'd watch out for meteors if I were you. You're slinging bad luck like Bob Barker slings game. Go home and go to bed. Good Luck!



Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Today has 2 stars. Do something good for the community, like helping the elderly. They'll never notice their missing purses.



Cancer (June 22-July 22)

4 stars. Save the planet and conserve water. Forsaking showers is a great way to start. You'll save time and money and free up your social calendar for weeks.



Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Today will be a 3 star day. Indulge

in beast-like eating habits. Why? Because cooking is for civilized losers!



Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

2 stars for you. Okay, okay. So your grandma's officially crazy. But don't worry too much. She can go without sharp objects for a while.



Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

2 stars for the convict! The cops are on the way right now. The state frowns upon public indecency, you freak.



Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

It's a great 5 star day. Why don't you mix it up today? Go to the wrong classes, go out with different friends and drive someone else's car. The cops will be too busy busting the Libras.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

3 stars. Need some money? Go donate some unnecessary organs to science. Or better yet— donate your friend's!



Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

4 stars. Your loved one

complains and wants a change of pace. Suggest adopting a pet baboon. That will shut them up for a while.



Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

It's 5 stars on the radar, tiger! Make yourself a swimming pool somewhere on campus. Permission is optional. Dig after dark if you want less "interruptions."



Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

4 stars. Go swimming in the new pool on campus. You may want to schedule a doctor's appointment as well—that water won't be good for your system.